

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

News Release: June 30, 2004
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Davis visits South Bend's Schafer Gear Works; awards \$204,426 in state grants

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gearing up the state's economy, today Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis visited South Bend's Schafer Gear Works, Inc. to announce state assistance for the homegrown company.

Headquartered in South Bend, Schafer Gear Works, Inc. was founded in 1934 and is a leading producer of high precision, custom engineered gears and machined parts. Serving a variety of customers in automotive, off-highway equipment, lawn and garden, medical and mining industries, Schafer Gear Works' annual sales exceed \$10 million.

Davis visited the 108,000 square foot facility to award two training grants as well as announce the company's participation in the state's new workforce development initiative, Indiana@Work.

"For any business to be successful in today's global economic climate, it needs a capable, skilled and motivated workforce -- and that's what this partnership between the state of Indiana and Schafer Gear Works is all about," said Davis. "Indiana@Work is helping hundreds of companies become stronger, by making sure the right people are in the right jobs and their workers have access to the latest skills and technology."

Announced by Gov. Joe Kernan in his State-of-the-State address in January, **Indiana@Work** is an innovative program that identifies and develops workforce skills, while seeking to match individuals to jobs based on skill levels. Through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) \$1,296 has been obligated to assess the skills of up to 60 individuals as the Schafer Gear Works seeks potential new employees. Profiles for the positions, which include manual and CNC gear cutting, CNC lathe operation, shipping and receiving and secondary finishing processes were previously conducted.

Davis also announced training grants awarded from the DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce. Through its Incumbent Worker Training Grant, DWD has awarded the company \$170,750 **Incumbent Worker Training Grant** to upgrade the skills of 92 existing employees. Leveraged by a \$280,494 contribution from Schafer Gear Works, the grant will be used to provide for a variety of specialized training for employees interested in earning an Advanced Manufacturing Certificate. Commerce provided \$32,380 for its **Skills Enhancement Fund** to offer training in machine operation, team build and quality control to 93 existing and 12 new employees.

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"Schafer Gear Works is committed to investing in our workforce so we can remain a leader in the industry and effectively compete in the global marketplace," said Bipin Doshi, president of the Schafer Gear Works, Inc. "Through these state programs, our employees and our company will grow better and stronger and we will be even more competitive. We are grateful to the state of Indiana for its leadership in supporting our endeavors."

Employing 93 Hoosiers at its South Bend facility, Schafer Gear Works also operates facilities in Fort Wayne and in Illinois. During the past three years Schafer Gear Works invested \$4 million dollars in new equipment. The company also purchased Chicago Gear Works in 2003 and moved the business to South Bend creating 25 new jobs here.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 13,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 200 job profiles since its inception in January.

A centerpiece of the program is WorkKeys®, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

DWD's Incumbent WorkerTraining grant is available to all Indiana businesses and is designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers. Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF) grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and existing employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project.

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